garrisons of Greenland and Basinghouses, the City sent out two brigades of horse and foot, under the command of Colonel Brown, who attacked and obliged them to retire. And the Marquis of Newcastle, in possession of the coal trade in the river Tyne, having prohibited the exportation of coals to London, the Parliament issued an ordinance for supplying the City with turf and peat, with power to the lord mayor to nominate and appoint persons to enter into, and buy any quantity of turf and peat in and upon any grounds, except orchards, gardens, and walks.

1647.—The City defences were levelled by the army of the Parliament, in consequence of the citizens having refused to agree to a grant of money for the army.

On the 30th of January, 1648, Charles I was executed at Whitehall.

During the reign of the Protectorate, several proclamations and orders were delivered, to prohibit the increase of new buildings,—to effect which he passed an ordinance, that all persons who had erected houses in contempt of former prohibitions, since the 25th of March, 1620, should, for every such house, not having four acres of land attached thereto, pay to the Protector one year's rent; and for every house erected after the 29th of September, 1656, without land, as aforesaid, to forfeit 100*l.* for his use.

In 1658 Cromwell died, and whether it was caused by vigilance in sanitary measures, or from other causes, it is a remarkable circumstance that but few persons in London died of plague and other infectious diseases during his government.

Charles II. made his public entry into London on the 29th of May, 1660, amid great rejoicing.

In 1662 the hackney-coaches (still seemingly a great difficulty) having created an extraordinary charge on the inhabitants of London and Westminster, by destroying the pavements, the Parliament enacted, that all hackney-coaches in and about London and Westminster should annually pay towards the charge of paving and cleansing the streets and ways in and about the said cities, the sum of 5*l.* each; and every load of hay, 6d.; and straw, 2d. The same Act provided for enlarging the passages at Stock's Market, from Fleet Conduit to St. Paul's Church, the passage and gateway out of Cheapside into St. Paul's Churchyard, the passage at St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, from Cheapside into Bucklersbury, the passage at Temple Bar, and several others in the out parts, and to pave Petty France to St. James's House, St. James's-street, Pall Mall, and Hedge-lane.

Early in May 1665, a pestilence, known afterwards, on account of its dreadful consequences, as the "Great Plague," broke out in London; and it will be useful, in afterwards alluding to this calamity, to copy the numbers, as given by the parish clerks of London, of those who died of plague in London from 1603 until the cessation of the plague, 1679.

| Years. | Died of Plague. |
|---|---|
| 1603 { Accession of James I. } | 30,561 |
| 1604 | 896 |
| 1605 | 444 |
| 1606 | 2,124 |
| 1607 | 2,353 |
| 1608 | 2,262 |
| 1609 | 4,240 |
| 1610 | 1,803 |
| 1611 | 627 |
| 1612 | 64 |
| 1613 | 16 |
| 1614 | 23 |
| 1615 | 37 |
| 1616 | 9 |
| 1617 | 6 |
| 1618 | 19 |
| 1619 | 9 |
| 1620 | 3 |
| 1621 | 11 |
| 1622 | 16 |
| 1623 | 17 |
| 1624 | 0 |
| 1625 { Accession of Charles I. } | 35,417 |
| 1626 | 134 |
| 1627 | 4 |
| 1628 | 3 |
| 1629 | 0 |
| 1630 | 1,317 |
| 1631 | 274 |
| 1632 | 8 |
| 1633 | 0 |
| 1634 | 1 |
| 1635 | 0 |

| Years. | Died of Plague. |
|---|---|
| 1636 | 10,400 |
| 1637 | 3,080 |
| 1638 | 363 |
| 1639 | 314 |
| 1640 | 1,450 |
| 1641 | 3,087 |
| 1642 | 1,334 |
| 1643 | 998 |
| 1644 | 1,492 |
| 1645 | 1,871 |
| 1646 | 2,486 |
| 1647 | 3,597 |
| 1648 Death Chas. I. | 611 |
| 1649 | 67 |
| 1650 | 15 |
| 1651 | 29 |
| 1652 | 16 |
| 1653 | 6 |
| 1654 | 16 |
| 1655 | 9 |
| 1656 | 8 |
| 1657 | 4 |
| 1658 { Death Oliver Cromwell } | 14 |
| 1659 | 36 |
| 1660 { Accession of Chas. II. } | 14 |
| 1661 | 20 |
| 1662 | 13 |
| 1663 | 9 |
| 1664 | 8 |
| 1665 { The Great Plague } | 68,596 |
| 1666 The Great Fire | 1,998 |
| (Total, 136,023) | |

Number of deaths by plague in London, from 1603 till 1623 inclusive, a period of twenty-one years—45,536.
Number of deaths by plague in London, from 1624 till 1644 inclusive, a period of twenty-one years—40,196.
Number of deaths by plagues in London, from 1645 till 1665 inclusive, a period of twenty-two years—79,362.

*Number of Deaths by Plague in London after the Great Fire.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1667 | 35 | 1674 | 3 |
| 1668 | 14 | 1675 | 1 |
| 1669 | 3 | 1676 | 2 |
| 1670 | 0 | 1677 | 2 |
| 1671 | 6 | 1678 | 4 |
| 1672 | 5 | 1679 | 2 |
| 1673 | 5 | (Total, 82) | |

After this time no record of deaths by Plague in London is made in the Bills of Health.

Nothing can be more striking and conclusive than the above tables, which not only afford great encouragement to the sanitary reformer, but ought to be a lesson to those having the care of the public health as to the responsibility of their position. Here we have the statistics of a scourge which continued during the above years to increase in violence until the Great Fire, and which, during the above-mentioned years, carried off 185,052 persons. If we allow an increase at the present time of only four times the increase of population, this would be at the rate of 11,000 and upwards of lives each year sacrificed to want of knowledge, and too often selfishness, on the part of the various persons engaged in the management and construction of a great city. It was vain to pass Act after Act against the extension of London: the authorities were alarmed for the public health: they were alarmed for the health of themselves and families; they passed enactments which, while not materially taxing themselves, they thought might help to stop the pestilence—*but the plague-spot was in the heart of the city.* Imagine, if you can, at the present day immense masses of houses, of which those in Baley's-court are an existing example. Let our readers go to this place—to some of the alleys near Bartholomew Church, Saffron-hill, and scores of other parts of London,—places which in 1852, notwithstanding the advanced intelligence and more stringent measures of the day, are an abomination and disgrace; and, after a few of these visits, they may have a faint notion of London before the "Fire."

In the older condition of London the plague was scarcely ever absent.

By the interposition of Providence, which punishes nations as well as individuals generally for their own good, the greater part of the city was swept away by fire. *After that event only eighty-two persons are reported to have died of plague.*

The plague still rages in the cities of the East: commerce has increased: the extent of communication between foreign countries is now greater than could have been dreamed of in the time of Charles II.: still we have no plague in London.

The proper object of antiquarian inquiry should be to discover in the past what may be beneficial and instructive to the living. This feeling in inquiring into the former condition of London causes us to regret, even at the present day, how sad is the condition of this great city, and how many thousands of lives which might be saved, are yearly sacrificed in consequence of the ill-condition of many of the neighbourhoods of this metropolis. The little court which we engrave is, as may be judged, of most inflammable material. A steam-engine and other dangerous matters surround the premises. The entrance is by a small door which might be passed a hundred times in Bell yard without notice. None of the fire-escapes in general use could possibly enter, not even, we should think, the parish ladder. Sleeping in such premises is scarcely less dangerous than doing so in the neighbourhood of a gunpowder magazine. This, however, is only a portion of the evil. In the cellar between one of the houses is a cesspool, which at times, said our informant, "nearly poisons us." This is kept under lock and key by the landlord of the premises. A convenience opposite the houses is the only means of accommodation for twenty-two persons; for whose use also is a small leaden cistern, placed close to the dust-hole and near the place above mentioned, and this, from its size, is totally inadequate to the use of so many persons. On Sundays they are often without any water. There is no drain from the court: if any water be thrown down it runs into Bell-yard, and the shopkeepers and other respectable inhabitants speedily interfere to stop such a practice. What chance have people in such a place to preserve health? Many will say, "Why live there?" To these we would answer—The poor are not always their own masters, and often are ignorant of the consequences of such localities. In thousands of instances the inhabitants of unwholesome neighbourhoods take possession of them for want of better; and once located, the landlord too often allows a little arrear of rent—just about the value of their furniture. They now become fixtures for life: child after child dies of the absolute poison of the atmosphere: the regular rent is strictly enforced, and the arrears used as a means of stopping the demand for improvement.

Baley's-court is bad enough, but there are others in London infinitely worse. It is not long since we saw water sold in St. Giles's at the shop from which the poor creatures purchased bread, tea, and other necessaries of life.

REFERENCES.

44. Baley's-court, Bell-yard, Fleet-street.
45. Houses in the Strand, nearly opposite Saint Clement's Church.
46. House in Strand.
47. Building about time of Charles I. Gray's-inn.
48. Residence of Milton, the Poet, at Westminster.
49. Roof of House in Gray's-inn-lane, about the date of 1633.

The whole of the engravings are from sketches made on the spot.

## PLANK ROADS IN AMERICA.

The signal benefit of this system of roads, says the *New York Daily Times* of 26th July has caused it to be interwoven, within the last five years, into the economy of our state. Special application for plank-road charters so besieged the doors of the Capitol that the legislature enacted a general law, so that any one, by complying with certain regulations, may incorporate himself for the construction and maintenance of such a road. Some of our central cities radiate their roads toward all points of the compass. Syracuse first set the example, under the direction of George Geddes, esq. a senator from Onondaga, who has inherited ingenuity and engineering qualities from his father, formerly one of the most distinguished and experienced surveyors of the state; and now, over 100 miles of plank road make that thriving and enterprising city the active focus in which they centre. During the fall and spring, when the roads were formerly blockaded by mud, and all trade with the surrounding country interdicted, there is now a steady and uninterrupted commerce. In some instances property along the line of these roads has doubled in value. Oswego, Rome, and Utica have exhibited similar energy in weaving around them this invaluable net-work, and have experienced and realised similar results. Other states have adopted the system, and already this delightful road, with which for ease and comfort the Appian Way could not compare, is steadily winding itself amidst the hitherto almost inacessible forests of Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin; and one, of 200 miles in length, stretching along the western shore of Lake Michigan, penetrates the great wilderness of the north, and opens its sequestered fastnesses to the activity of trade. Probably 3,000 or 4,000 miles of this style of road now exist in the state of New York, and, in the Union, perhaps as many more, although it is now not over five years since its first introduction. These roads are not so much needed in the sandy soil that surrounds New York, as in those sections of the country whose loam retains the rain. Yet they are rapidly clustering around us. A plank road reaches from Brooklyn to Jamaica; and if any one would see an unbroken stream of fleet and magnificent trotters, let him some lovely afternoon give himself an airing on this hoof-beaten way. Another, a double-track road of this descrip-

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